European Conference on
Colon Cancer Prevention in Europe
- Status Quo and Perspectives –

This event is held under the patronage of the German EU Presidency and the Union Internationale Contre le Cancer (UICC)

Date:
May 9, 2007
08.30 – 18.00 hours

Venue:
Building of the Bavarian Representation in Brussels (formerly the Pasteur Institute)

Initiated by:
Felix Burda Foundation, the German Network against Colon Cancer, the International Digestive Cancer Alliance (IDCA)

The following organisations support the conference:
- European Cancer Prevention Organisation (ECP)
- European Cancer Leagues (ECL)
- United European Gastroenterology Federation (UEGF)
- European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)
- European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)
- European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)
- European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Verdauungs- und Stoffwechselkrankheiten (DGVS)
- Bundesverband Gastroenterologie Deutschland (BVGD)
- Kassenärztliche Bundesvereinigung (KBV)

Background:
Currently, roughly every other colon cancer patient dies from his disease. Yet colon cancer is the only cancer which can be almost totally prevented or cured if recognized at an early stage. The incidence rate would fall drastically, if people over the age of 50 and people from families with a history of colon cancer were systematically screened for tumours in their early stages or adenomous polyps, the preliminary stages of tumours. Parallel to the fall of the incidence rate also the mortality rate would then decrease significantly, since colonic tumours can be
successfully cured provided they are detected at an early stage, and adenomas
could be removed before they can degenerate into cancer.

**Objectives of the conference:**
Drastically reversing the current trend of high incidence and mortality rates of colon
cancer should become the highest possible priority on the European health policy
agenda for the 21st century. All countries within the European Union should be
couraged to introduce internationally interlinked screening programmes. Thus the
main objective of the conference is offering a scientific base for screening
programmes and stimulating the establishment of a pan-European network for this
very important topic. Based on scientific evidence the conference tries to provide
incentives for the practical implementation of an interlinked pan-European colon
cancer screening programme. Taking the status quo of research and national
screening practices into account the conference provides a platform for the
discussion of the outline of the various possibilities of population-based national
screening programmes. Aspects of primary prevention, cost-efficiency, quality
assurance, patient compliance and the identification of high-risk groups play an
important role in this. In addition selected best practice examples from different
European countries will be used to demonstrate the variety of possibilities of practical
implementation.

With the aid of a “Brussels declaration”, the conference will strive to initiate a pan-
European endeavour which focuses on the prevention of colon cancer and sets the
drastic reduction of the incidence and mortality rates as its goal.

**Target groups:**
The conference is addressed at decision-makers, planning managers, mediators and
scientists who will be involved in the design and development of European health
policies over the next few years, particularly at
- Representatives from the EU Commission
- Members of the European Parliament
- Representatives from scientific organisations and associations
- Representatives from public and private healthcare bodies, agencies and
  institutions
- Politicians and health experts from the political parties
- Health insurance companies
- Media

**Scientific Committee:**
Guido Tytgat, The Netherlands
Eric Van Cutsem, Belgium
Colm O’Morain, Ireland
Meinhard Classen, Germany
Jean Faivre, France
Wolff Schmiegel, Germany
Geir Hoff, Norway
Friedrich Hagenmüller, Germany
Programme outline:

9th of May 2007 08:30 hours until 18:00 hours

Welcome address
Werner Schnappauf, Minister of Health & Consumer Protection of the State of Bavaria, Germany

I. The Prevention of Colon Cancer and European Health Policy

Chairmen:
Colm O’Morain, Ireland
Eric Van Cutsem, Belgium

Massimo Crespi, Italy
Keynote Lecture: Colon cancer: A pan-European health issue of increasing urgency – The Epidemiology of colon cancer in European countries

Jaroslaw Waligora, European Commission, Luxembourg
A European cancer screening policy – What does it serve and which programmes does it support?

Elio Riboli, Coordinator of the EPIC Study, United Kingdom
The influence of healthy diet, sports and chemical prevention on the prevention of colon cancer

Jean Faivre, France
Evidence, efficacy and efficiency of stool and serum tests

Hermann Brenner, Germany
Evidence, efficacy and efficiency of endoscopic screening methods

II. Colon Cancer Screening Practices across Europe

Chairmen:
Jean Faivre, France
Wolff Schmiegel, Germany

Meinhard Classen, Germany
The status quo of colon cancer screening in Europe – A pan-European survey about screening and the application of existing guidelines in diagnostic procedures

Various national screening practices:

Nea Malila, Finland
Miroslav Zavoral, Czech Republic
III. „From Bench to Practice“

Chairmen:
Geir Hoff, Norway
Friedrich Hagenmüller, Germany

Robert J.C. Steele, United Kingdom
Increasing public acceptance for colon cancer screening programmes through invitation schemes

Christa Maar, Germany
Increasing public acceptance for colon cancer screening programmes through public relation campaigns and the establishment of dedicated networks

Ernst J. Kuipers, The Netherlands
Which colon cancer screening programmes can we afford? – A cost-benefit analysis of different approaches

H.F.A. Vasen, The Netherlands
Can the identification of high-risk groups increase the effectiveness of colon cancer screening programmes?

Berndt Birkner and Bernhard Gibis, Germany
The importance of quality assurance methods for the competent execution, handling and structuring of colon cancer screening programmes

Monika Sieverding, Germany
Correlates of colorectal cancer screening in men and women in Germany

IV. Panel discussion: Outlining a pan-European Colon Cancer Screening Programmes
Design and develop possible steps for an implementation of national screening programmes; Discussion of the declaration of Brussels „Declaration of how to best combat Colon Cancer within Europe“

Chairmen:
Meinhard Classen, Germany
Guido Tytgat, The Netherlands

participants: